



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
**Grand Teton National Park**

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National Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
**Bridger-Teton National Forest**  
**Caribou-Targhee National Forest**



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## Interagency News Release

**For Immediate Release**

August 25, 2003

### **INTERAGENCY FIRE USE MANAGEMENT TEAM TO OVERSEE OPERATIONS ON MOSS RIDGE WILDLAND FIRE USE FOR RESOURCE BENEFIT COMPLEX**

**Jackson, Wyo.:** Wayne Cook's Interagency Fire Use Management Team has accepted a delegation of authority from Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Steve Martin and Forest Supervisors Kniffy Hamilton and Jerry Reese of the Bridger-Teton and Caribou-Targhee National Forests, to manage multiple wildland fire use incidents referred to as the Moss Ridge Complex.


This complex consists of five fires occurring in the Teton Wilderness Area, the Jedediah Smith Wilderness Area, and near the west shore of Jackson Lake in Grand Teton National Park. Park and Forest management policies allow some naturally ignited fires to be managed for resource benefit. Through the National Fire Plan, federal land managers have the flexibility to manage fire on public lands as a vital part of forest health improvements.

The five fires currently included in the Moss Ridge Complex are: the 62-acre Hominy Fire, located in the Jedediah Smith Wilderness on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest; the .10-acre Elk Ridge and 66-acre Falcon fires on the west shore of Jackson Lake in Grand Teton National Park; and the 160-acre Bobcat and 2,100-acre Moss Ridge fires located in the Teton Wilderness on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. All five fires ignited between August 15<sup>th</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup> as a result of lightning activity in the area. Noticeable smoke columns have been observed on some or all of these fires over the past

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several days and may become significant if warm, dry weather patterns return for an extended period of time.

Resources assigned to the complex include one helicopter and one fixed wing airplane for aerial reconnaissance, and 32 personnel including fire observers who provide for public and firefighter safety near the fires and monitor fire progression. They also provide interagency dispatch and the incident command post with important information that is used to develop plans for daily operations.

Fire Information Officers are posting updates at trailheads and popular visitor locations to keep people informed about the fires. Additional information can be found by visiting the website [www.tetonfires.com](http://www.tetonfires.com) or by calling Grand Teton National Park at (307) 739-3300, the Bridger-Teton National Forest at (307) 739-5500 or the Caribou-Targhee National Forest at (208) 524-7500.

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